

SWITCHING DEVICE WITH MULTISTAGE QUEUING SCHEME**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

In a switching device, a method of communicating data packets from
5 sending ports to destination ports includes storing in a first stage queue packet-
related data from a sending port; determining from the packet-related data which
destination ports are to receive the packet-related data in the first stage queue;
storing in a second stage queue associated with each determined destination port
the packet-related data from the first stage queue; and using the packet-related data
10 in the second stage queue to complete the communication of the data packet from
the sending port to each determined destination port. Apparatus for practicing the
method comprises a first stage queue storing packet-related data from a sending
port; and a second stage queue associated with each of a set of destination ports
storing the packet-related data from the first stage queue.

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